

Wednesday night patrons at Camp Courtney's Staff Non-Commissioned Officer's Club have been discovering the vocal stylings of Okinawa's best hidden singers. See story and photo on page 17 for more details.

July 27, 2001

Camp Smedley D. Butler, Okinawa, Japan

www.okinawa.usmc.mil

INSIDE

NEWS

Service members receive mid-year pay increase

Department of Defense officials hope a mid-year pay raise for E-5 through E-7 and a BAH increase for E-1 through E-4 creates an atmosphere of high morale which translates into retaining experienced personnel.

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NEWS

Marines arrive on Guam to begin urban exercise

A detachment of Marines from the 31st MEU is on Guam to participate in TRUOX 01-2, a bi-annual exercise where the Marines will increase their knowledge and expertise in small-scale urban training.

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FEATURE

Koa Thunder Marines take part in TRAP

Small unit leaders and NCOs from I Company, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment gain experience during 10-day deployment in Guam in how to salvage a downed aircraft and its crew.

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FEATURE

III MEF chief of staff discusses his career

After more than 30 years in the Marine Corps, Col. James Booker recounts the challenges and accomplishments that have made him proud to call himself "one of the few, the finest."

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SPORTS

Best softball teams in the Pacific come to Okinawa

Teams from Okinawa, Hawaii and Iwakuni, Japan, compete for the honor of being COMMARFORPAC regional champions and to see a few of their own selected for the All Marine Softball Trial Camp next month.

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MCB drives into the future

First electric-powered vehicle for Marine use unveiled at Camp Foster

LANCE CPL. KENNETH L. HINSON
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

CAMP FOSTER — When Alessandro Volta invented the battery in the 18th century, he had no idea the Marine Corps would one day use his invention for travel. To the Marine Corp's advantage, that day finally arrived July 19, when the Nissan Hyper-Mini Electric Car made its debut on Okinawa.

The HMEC is a 120-volt battery powered vehicle that will help attain a Marine Corps goal by saving money on vehicle maintenance and fuel costs.

When compared to a gasoline-fueled vehicle, the HMEC comes out on top since it only costs 1.5 yen per 100 kilometers to operate. This low cost is made possible by the Synchronous Motor, which is powered by four Lithium-Ion batteries. On a full charge, the vehicle can travel nearly 60 kilometers.

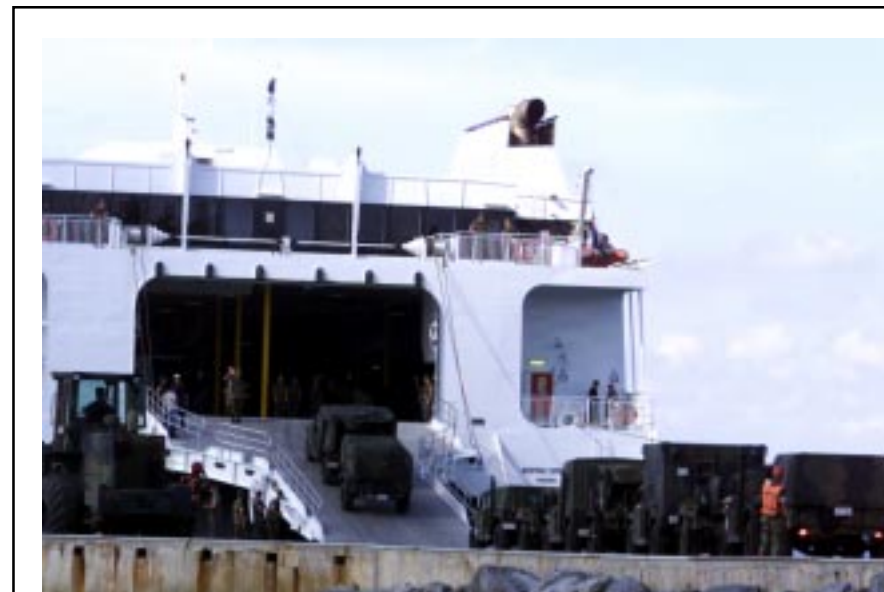
"Since the Marine Corps has to spend a lot of money on fuel for all its vehicles, this investment will be one that help the Corps immensely," said Master Gunnery Sgt. Keith Reid, base motor transportation fleet manager, Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Corps Base. "The HMECs will cut costs and the Marine Corps will be able to use the money it saves for other mission related equipment."

Engineers researched and developed the HMEC for the past 30 years. The Marine Corps was trying to incorporate the HMECs into their fleet of vehicles for the past two years.

Maintenance of the vehicle is simple because there is no oil, water or anti-freeze to check or replace. The parts of the vehicle are easily accessible and are replaced with little or no complication. Such low maintenance will

"It's just another way the Marine Corps is continuing to head toward the future."

- Master Gunnery Sgt. Keith Reid



SGT. STEPHEN L. STANDIFIRD

Test run

Marines from 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment load the WestPac Express July 15 at Kin Red Pier as the Marines prepare to use the catamaran to ferry troops from Okinawa to Camp Fuji for a training exercise. Over the summer months, III Marine Expeditionary Force will test the ship's capabilities to transport troops, vehicles and equipment to off-island training sites.

only continue to save the Marine Corps money, according to Reid.

The body and frame of the HMEC is aluminum, which is rustproof and lightweight, adding better performance for longer distances. Other standard features of the vehicle include an anti-lock brake system, air conditioning, seating for two people, rear-wheel-drive and a weight capacity up to 400 pounds. The maximum speed for the vehicle is 100 kilometers per hour.

Safety features of the vehicle include dash-mounted voltage meters for the battery voltage and tire pressure. It also includes dual airbags and run flat tires, which can travel up to 77 kilometers after being punctured.

"Vehicle safety is always an important factor when experimenting with new equipment," Reid said. "In the Marine Corps, we have to trust our equipment to be safe and dependable to help us with our mission."

Nissan engineers also developed the vehicle to be environmentally friendly. The batteries do not contain any type of acid and there are no carbon dioxide emissions to harm the environment.



LANCE CPL. KENNETH L. HINSON

The new Nissan Hyper-Mini Electric Car made its debut on Okinawa July 19. The Marine Corps plans to purchase 27 of the vehicles in early spring 2002 to be used for government transportation on island.

"The vehicles show the Marine Corps is doing their part to be environmentally safe," said Staff Sgt. Marla D. Edwards, roadmaster, Base Motor Transportation, H&S Bn., MCB. "It's very important for us to take care of the environment in which we live, and this is the Marine Corp's way of helping out."

The Marine Corps plans to purchase 27 of the HMECs from Nissan to use on island. Marines should start seeing the HMECs in full use by early spring 2002.

"The new vehicles are such a quality investment for the Marine Corps," Reid concluded. "It's just another way the Marine Corps is continuing to head toward the future."

Report traffic violations at 645-7441/7442

Service members receive mid-year pay increase

E-5 to E-7 receive raises while E-1 to E-4 receive increase in BAH

LANCE CPL. KENNETH L. HINSON
 COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

CAMP FOSTER — A pay increase is nothing new to service members of the U. S. military, but to a few it's like having a dream come true. That dream became reality July 1 when a basic pay increase was implemented for qualified service members, including reservist.

The Department of Defense recently announced a pay increase for qualified E-5's through E-7's and a Basic Allowance for Housing increase for E-1's through E-4's living off base

with dependents.

DOD implemented the pay increase for E-5's through E-7's to support the middle management of the U. S. Military and to maintain a moderate retention rate.

"The July 1 pay increase will raise service members desire to stay enlisted in the military by giving them a bonus for serving their country," said Gunnery Sgt. Ricky Serrano, pay and maintenance staff noncommissioned officer in charge, Marine Corps Personnel Administration Center, Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Corps Base.

Eligibility for the increase requires E-5's through E-7's to have six years of service or more. Service members can view the exact amount of the pay increase at www.dfas.mil/money/milpay/pay.

The BAH rate for E-1's through E-4's who live off base with dependents increased to compensate for the economy and national average of spending expenses.

The adjustment to the BAH depends upon the geographical location of the service member and his or her family. This means the BAH rate can increase in some areas more than others.

All BAH rates, including the increase, are available at www.dtic.mil/perdiem/bahform.html.

Although not every service member is affected by the pay increase, it will leave a lasting impression upon the entire military by keeping productivity and morale high. Service members will begin to see the government and military is trying to improve the quality of life for them, according to Serrano.

"The increase will help those service members who actually need the money," said Sgt. Dennis C. Caiolo, pay chief, Island Personnel Administration Center, H&S Battalion, MCB. "Service members don't stay in the military to get rich. They stay in because they love their job and career."

Qualified service members saw the increase on their July 15 payday.

Increase for 2002 proposed

AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

WASHINGTON, D.C. — President George W. Bush recently proposed a pay raise for active duty and reserve service members that will be the biggest raise in military pay in a generation.

The raise includes at least a five percent pay increase for every service member and up to 10 percent for E-4's through E-9's and mid-grade officers.

If approved by Congress, the raise will not only boost pay and benefits, but it will increase military morale, readiness and retention.

Funding for military personnel in Fiscal Year 2001 was \$75 billion. This amount will jump to \$82 billion in Fiscal Year 2002.

The military pay raise is part of the President Bush's Fiscal Year 2002 Amended Defense Budget, which is designed to add readiness for future by dealing with current needs.

MONTHLY BASIC PAY TABLE

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2001

YEARS OF SERVICE

PAY GRADE	<2	2	3	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26
COMMISSIONED OFFICERS															
O-10	8,518.80	8,818.50				9,156.90		9,664.20		10,356.00		11,049.30	11,103.90	11,334.60	11,737.20
O-9	7,550.10	7,747.80	7,912.80			8,114.10		8,451.60		9,156.90		9,664.20	9,803.40	10,004.70	10,356.00
O-8	6,838.20	7,062.30	7,210.50	7,252.20	7,437.30	7,747.80	7,819.80	8,114.10	8,198.70	8,451.60	8,818.50	9,156.90	9,382.80		
O-7	5,682.30	6,068.40		6,112.50	6,340.80	6,514.50	6,715.50	6,915.90	7,116.90	7,747.80	8,280.90				8,322.60
O-6	4,211.40	4,626.60	4,930.20		4,949.10	5,160.90	5,189.10		5,360.70	6,005.40	6,311.40	6,617.40	6,791.40	6,967.80	7,309.80
O-5	3,368.70	3,954.90	4,228.80	4,280.40	4,450.50		4,584.30	4,831.80	5,155.80	5,481.60	5,637.00	5,790.30	5,964.60		
O-4	2,839.20	3,457.20	3,687.90	3,739.50	3,953.40	4,127.70	4,409.70	4,629.30	4,781.70	4,935.00	4,986.60				
O-3	2,638.20	2,991.00	3,228.00	3,489.30	3,656.40	3,839.70	3,992.70	4,189.80	4,292.10						
O-2	2,301.00	2,620.80	3,018.60	3,120.30	3,184.80										
O-1	1,997.70	2,079.00	2,512.80												
PAY GRADE	<2	2	3	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26

COMMISSIONED OFFICERS WITH OVER 4 YEARS ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE AS AN ENLISTED MEMBER OR WARRANT OFFICER

O-3E				3,489.30	3,656.40	3,839.70	3,992.70	4,189.80	4,355.70	4,450.50	4,580.40				
O-2E				3,120.30	3,184.80	3,285.90	3,457.20	3,589.50	3,687.90						
O-1E				2,512.80	2,684.10	2,783.10	2,884.20	2,984.10	3,120.30						
PAY GRADE	<2	2	3	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26

WARRANT OFFICERS

W-5												4,640.70	4,800.00	4,959.90	5,120.10
W-4	2,688.00	2,891.70	2,974.80	3,056.70	3,197.40	3,336.30	3,477.00	3,614.10	3,756.30	3,892.50	4,032.00	4,168.20	4,309.50	4,448.40	4,590.90
W-3	2,443.20	2,649.90		2,684.10	2,793.90	2,919.00	3,084.30	3,184.80	3,294.60	3,420.30	3,545.10	3,669.90	3,794.70	3,919.80	4,045.20
W-2	2,139.60	2,315.10		2,391.00	2,512.80	2,649.90	2,750.70	2,851.50	2,949.60	3,058.20	3,169.50	3,280.80	3,391.80	3,503.40	
W-1	1,782.60	2,043.90		2,214.60	2,315.10	2,419.20	2,523.30	2,626.80	2,731.50	2,835.90	2,940.00	3,018.60			
PAY GRADE	<2	2	3	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26

ENLISTED MEMBERS

E-9							3,126.90	3,197.40	3,287.10	3,392.40	3,498.00	3,601.80	3,742.80	3,882.60	4,060.80
E-8						2,622.00	2,697.90	2,768.40	2,853.30	2,945.10	3,041.10	3,138.00	3,278.10	3,417.30	3,612.60
E-7	1,831.20	1,999.20	2,075.10	2,149.80	2,228.10	2,362.20	2,437.80	2,512.80	2,588.10	2,666.10	2,742.00	2,817.90	2,949.60	3,034.80	3,250.50
E-6	1,575.00	1,740.30	1,817.40	1,891.80	1,969.80	2,097.30	2,174.10	2,248.80	2,325.00	2,379.60	2,421.30				
E-5	1,381.80	1,549.20	1,623.90	1,701.00	1,779.30	1,888.50	1,962.90	2,040.30							
E-4	1,288.80	1,423.80	1,500.60	1,576.20	1,653.00										
E-3	1,214.70	1,307.10	1,383.60	1,385.40											
E-2	1,169.10														
E-1 >4	1,042.80														
E-1 <4	964.80														

*Bold entries indicate pay raise for E-5 through E-7 with more than six years of service.

31st MEU starts new cycle with TRUEX 01-2

LANCE CPL. JOHN HOELLWARTH
31ST MEU COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam — A small detachment of Marines from the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit recently landed to conduct Training in an Urban Environment Exercise 01-2.

The bi-annual exercise affords MEU Marines the opportunity to sharpen their skills in small-scale urban training.

The Training in an Urban Environment Exercise is designed to prepare Marines for future operations in built-up areas. To prepare for this type of situation, Marines will spend approximately three weeks conducting multiple raids and direct action missions in a variety of urban scenarios.

"TRUEX is the first exercise in each cycle. This TRUEX is different in that the MEU had very little down time between returning from Australia and leaving for Guam," said Chief Warrant Officer Bob Reed, Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Officer, 31st MEU.

In mid-June, the MEU returned from a six-week deployment to Australia, where it trained with the Aussies during exercise Tandem Thrust-01. Less than a month later, it is back to doing what it does best - training for war.

The Training in an Urban Environment Exercise familiarizes Marines with the special considerations required when operating in an urban setting. Since the possibility of fighting in an urban area does exist, Marines must train for the challenges presented on this type of battlefield. Guam is an ideal setting,

as it provides a variety of necessary training areas and urban sites for this type of training.

The Training in an Urban Environment Exercise has traditionally involved only the Maritime Special Purpose Forces of the MEU. For this evolution, the exercise is supported by the MSPF, a robust reconnaissance and surveillance team, security forces, and specialized detachments of the MEU's command element.

Before leaving Okinawa, Japan, the MSPF conducted interoperability training to assist MEU reconnaissance elements in training with the MEU's direct action unit in MSPF operations. Following the interoperability training, the MSPF traveled to Guam with the advance party.

The Maritime Special Purpose Force is comprised of select members of force reconnaissance and the MEU's ground combat element. III Marine Expeditionary Force's Special Operations Training Group administers the MSPF package to MEU Marines, teaching them the special techniques required for MSPF operations.

Interoperability training is quite important, as the MEU rotates its ground combat element every training cycle. The infantry battalions, which represent the MEU's ground forces, deploy to Okinawa every six months as part of the unit deployment program. Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, based out of Camp Pendleton, Calif., recently stepped in to replace BIT 1/5.



RACHEL BEATON, PACIFIC DAILY NEWS

Marines of the 31st MEU hone the skills they need to be effective in urban combat operations during the MEU's semi-annual Training in an Urban Environment Exercise. The exercise prepares Marines for the missions they will conduct before the MEU can be certified as special operations capable.

As the MEU gears up for a new cycle, TRUEX introduces the BIT to the MEU's rapid response planning process (R2P2). According to Reed, being familiar with R2P2 will pay off for the BIT later during events leading up to the special operations capable exercise.

The rapid response planning process is considered unique to Marine expeditionary units, as only a MEU's operational tempo requires it to be able to plan for any contingency within 6 hours of re-

ceiving the call to duty.

TRUEX provides BIT Marines with the training necessary to carry out other missions during SOCEX, as well. The training and experience received during the exercise will keep the MEU ready for any real-world situations it might encounter as the Marine Corps' only constantly forward-deployed and combat-ready Marine expeditionary unit.

Following the training, the Marines can expect to enjoy a few days of liberty.

40 Marines, Sailors land in Yap, provide medical support

GUNNERY SGT. MATT HEVEZI
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

YAP, Federated States of Micronesia — A team of U.S. Marines and Sailors from Okinawa-based units arrived July 17 on a training mission to provide medical support for the 2001 Federated States of Micronesia Games.

The 21 Sailors and 19 Marines are using the deployment as an opportunity to practice their skills in a remote location away from Okinawa and at the same time assist Yap officials during the FSM Games, according to Col. Charles T. Hayes, who is serving as the detachment commanding officer for the 40-member team during their deployment to Yap.

Missions to places like Yap are part of what's called "theater engagement" and are strategically very important for U.S. military forces in the Pacific region, Hayes said. Theater engagement is an initiative by senior U.S. military leaders in the region to reach out to neighboring countries, both large and small, to establish and develop relationships through community help projects and professional military training. It is especially important for forces based on Okinawa who face limited training areas, he said.

During their training in Yap, Marines and Sailors will set up medical aid stations, water purification systems and power generators next to a recently completed athletic complex which was built to host the games.

"We established our command post and are evaluating and setting up what we need to complete our mission," said Gunnery Sgt. Michael E. Fisher,

who is serving as the detachment first sergeant. Part of Fisher's mission is making sure equipment and personnel are organized into teams and that Marines and Sailors are working together to be ready when the games begin.

"I came with the attitude to be as flexible as possible because anything can happen," Fisher said. "But things have been going like clockwork out here. The junior Marines and Sailors are pulling together as small unit leaders."

Teamwork is essential to missions like the one in Yap where equipment must be prepared, packed, loaded, transported, unloaded and set up in working order. The team which deployed to Yap transported all their equipment via KC-130 transport aircraft from VMGR-152 at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma. It took four planes to deliver the Marines and Sailors with all their gear, which included three Humvees, two water purification units, two power generators, tents, and cases of medical equipment.

"You're basically self contained while deployed in a remote environment without resupply," said Hayes, who also serves as commanding officer for Marine Wing Support Group-17, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing. His unit specializes in providing aviation ground support such as building airstrips, installing airfield lighting, water purification and airfield security.

Operating in an "expeditionary" environment, away from a military base, is a critical part of his mission, he said. It is a capability his Marines must be well trained at, especially during assignments to remote locations.

"Anything I forgot, I'm not going to have, and not going to get. There is no infrastructure to fall on. We have to bring our own to sustain ourselves and to complete our mission," Hayes said.

Marines and Sailors assigned to units on Okinawa will likely see more deployments to places like Yap because of the training value, he said. Besides Yap, Okinawa Marines recently deployed on similar missions to places like Pohnpei, Palau and Tinian.

Among the Navy medical personnel assisting on the Yap mission are two physicians, an optician, dental officer, dental technician and a preventive medical technician who inspects local food and water sources for sanitation.

The medical aid provided during the games will be basic, said Chief Petty Officer Jonathan S. Sotingco, a corpsman who is serving on the Yap deployment as the Navy senior enlisted leader.

"We are expecting to treat typical sports injuries which are usually sprains and strains, Sotingco said. "We'll also be watching out for and treating any heat injuries we encounter."

Temperatures on Yap may reach into the '90s during the hottest part of the day. Humidity is also high.

The FSM Games are an annual sporting event which attract athletes from the FSM islands of Chuuk, Pohnpei, Kosrae and Yap.

Marines and Sailors supporting the deployment come from 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, 3rd Marine Division, 3rd Force Service Support Group, Marine Corp Base, and the U.S. Naval Hospital, Okinawa.

The detachment is scheduled to begin their re-deployment to Okinawa Aug. 1.

Change of Command



Lt. Col. Carol K. Joyce



Lt. Col. Donald K. Hansen

Lieutenant Colonel Carol K. Joyce replaced Lt. Col. Donald K. Hansen as the commanding officer of Marine Wing Headquarters Squadron-1, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, during a change of command ceremony at Camp Foster Parade Deck July 24.



Capt. Chris H. Gardiner



Capt. Roger D. Edwards

Navy Captain Chris H. Gardiner replaced Capt. Roger D. Edwards as the commanding officer of 3rd Medical Battalion, 3rd Force Service Support Group, during a change of command ceremony at Camp Hansen Theater July 13.



Capt. Howard H. Fischer



Capt. Kenneth R. Wright

Navy Captain Howard H. Fischer, Jr. replaced Capt. Kenneth R. Wright as the commanding officer of 3rd Dental Battalion/United States Naval Dental Center, 3rd Force Service Support Group, during a change of command ceremony at Camp Foster Parade Deck July 17.

Upcoming Change of Command

III Marine Expeditionary Force

The III Marine Expeditionary Force change of command, where Lt. Gen. Earl B. Hailston will relinquish command to Maj. Gen. Wallace C. Gregson, will be held at 5 p.m. July 31 at the Camp Courtney Parade Ground.

In the event of inclement weather, the ceremony will be held in the Camp Courtney Gym.

The uniform for the ceremony is camouflage utilities for service members and coat and tie for civilians.



Maj. Gen. James R. Battaglini



Maj. Gen. Wallace C. Gregson

Gregson departs 3rd MarDiv

SGT. SHAWN M. BABCOCK
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

CAMP COURTNEY — In an evening change of command ceremony at Camp Courtney July 26, Maj. Gen. Wallace C. Gregson relinquished command of 3rd Marine Division to Maj. Gen. James R. Battaglini.

According to Gregson, he has enjoyed his year as the head of 3rd MarDiv. and will miss the Marines he commanded.

"This is the best duty in the Marine Corps," said Gregson. "To be able to serve with such great Americans as we have here, and to contribute so importantly to matters that concern the highest levels of our government is a rare privilege. It is the reason why Marines and Sailors want to serve in this outfit. Anybody would miss that after leaving this division."

When asked about his greatest accomplishment as the head of 3rd MarDiv., Gregson responded by stating the division's greatest strength.

"The division has an exceptionally strong training foundation thanks to the Unit Deployment Program," he said. "This gives me infantry battalions, artillery batteries, light armored vehicle companies and assault amphibian vehicle companies that have completed a pre-deployment training program and are rock-solid in personnel upon arrival. The leadership of these organizations, from fire team to commander, stay in place while they are here. The team members stay in place. This is a huge operational advantage."

"If I have any accomplishment to claim, it is we have taken this capability and expanded our combined, coalition training with our allies and friends," Gregson said. "Our Marines and Sailors are simply unmatched when it comes to operating and training with forces from other nations, cultures and languages. That is key to our nation's ability to maintain and build alliances and friendships, and the key to maintaining the peace and prosperity in the region."

Gregson's most notable, yet most challenging experiences as Commanding General occurred when members of 3rd MarDiv. took part in exercises with other nations of or around the Pacific Rim.

"My most memorable experiences have been the opportunities I have had to visit exercises when we are training with our allies and friends," said

Gregson. "Our recently concluded exercises Cobra Gold, Balikatan, Tandem Thrust and Freedom Banner showed just how fast this Division can deploy robust, highly-trained, operationally competent and coalition-operations capable forces."

"In 1990, we did five combined exercises," he said. "In 2000, we did 30. This year, I think the total will hit 40. We will continue to expand these activities, testing the expeditionary capabilities and the entire leadership structure of all our organizations as much as we can."

Gregson believes this training only enhances the readiness of his troops. He uses the analogy of an athlete to make his point.

"Think of the division as the organizational equivalent of a superbly conditioned athlete," he said. "To maintain and improve that conditioning, we need to keep improving and expanding the exercise and workout schedule."

Gregson also likes to see the troops expand their cultural knowledge by getting involved in the communities they encounter while on Okinawa or on deployment.

"I stress community relations projects throughout the region with the idea it provides newly assigned Marines a way to assimilate local culture outside the gates," said Gregson. "They provide help to folks who genuinely need and appreciate it."

But, most importantly, Gregson wants the Marines of 3rd MarDiv. to understand why they are so vital to the strength of the division and to the continued stability of the region.

"No deployment or assignment in today's Marine Corps is any more important than their assignment here," Gregson said. "This is important, and they are important, not just to the division, Marine Expeditionary Force and Marine Corps, but important to our nation and allies."

"Our active, engaged presence here during the past half century meant nearly 50 years of sustained regional stability," he said. "Our current and future engagement and presence is designed to do the same."

Although Gregson has relinquished command of 3rd MarDiv., he will not be leaving Okinawa. He is becoming the Commanding General of III Marine Expeditionary Force. There, according to Gregson, he will continue to find ways of enhancing mission contributions to the area and ensuring the welfare of Marines, Sailors and their families serving on Okinawa.

NJP REPORT

The following are alcohol-related nonjudicial punishments for July 16 - 20.

• Underage drinking

A private first class with Headquarters and Service Battalion, 3rd Force Service Support Group, was found guilty at a battalion-level NJP of underage drinking. Punishment: reduction to E-1, forfeiture of \$521 pay per month for two months and restriction/extra duties for 45 days.

Two privates first class with H&S Battalion, 3rd FSSG, were found guilty at a battalion-level NJP of underage drinking. Punishment for both was: forfeiture of \$500 pay per month for two months and restriction/extra duties for 45 days.

A private first class with Materiel Readiness Battalion, 3rd FSSG, was found guilty at a company-level NJP of underage drinking. Punishment: forfeiture of \$584 pay per month for two months and restriction/extra duties for 45 days.

A private with Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, was found guilty at a squadron-level NJP of underage drinking and drinking on duty. Punishment: forfeiture of \$500 pay per month for two months and restriction for 60 days.

• Drunk and disorderly

A lance corporal with Training Support Battalion, 3rd FSSG, was found guilty at a company-level NJP of being drunk and disorderly. Punishment: forfeiture of \$322 pay for one month and restriction/extra duties for 14 days.

A lance corporal with TSB, 3rd FSSG, was found guilty at a battalion-level NJP of being drunk and disorderly. Punishment: forfeiture of \$500 pay per month for two months and restriction/extra duties for 45 days.

• Drunk and disorderly and underage drinking

A lance corporal with MRB, 3rd FSSG, was found guilty at a company-level NJP of being drunk and disorderly and underage drinking. Punishment: forfeiture of \$289 pay for one month and restriction/extra duties for 14 days.

• Dereliction of duty

A corporal with H&S Battalion, 3rd FSSG, was found guilty at a battalion-level NJP of dereliction of duties by consuming alcoholic beverages with underage Marines. Punishment: reduction to E-3, forfeiture of \$692 pay per month for two months and restriction/extra duties for 30 days.

COURTS MARTIAL

A lance corporal with 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 3rd Force Service Support Group, plead guilty at a general court-martial and was given a dishonorable discharge and sentenced to 10 years confinement, total forfeitures and reduction to E-1 for violation of Article 107, false official statements, and three specifications of Article 128, assault.

TMO TIPS

As of May 1, 2000, shipping and storage of propane tanks (of any type, including purged) in a member's personal property is no longer authorized.



STAFF SGT. NATHAN L. HANKS, JR.

Cultural exchange

Sergeants Alex Leibfried, left, and Serjio Gonzales, right, and Pfc's James Wells and Jennifer Sanchez participated in the Single Marine Program Tea Ceremony held in the Surfside Ballroom at Camp Kinser July 16. After the ceremony, Marines had a chance to see how traditional tea is prepared. "Marines should take advantage of Okinawa and experience more of the culture," said Gonzales, bulk fuel specialist, Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Corps Base. "This is a good example of what it has to offer."

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

"Jeopardy!" at Kadena

Alex Trebek, the United Service Organization, Armed Forces Entertainment and Kadena's 18th Services will bring the popular quiz show "Jeopardy!" to military personnel on Okinawa July 29. The purpose of the visit is to search for contestants among service members stationed in Japan.

Interested status of forces agreement-sponsored participants can join in the afternoon of fun beginning 2 p.m. at the Rocker NCO club.

Participants can take a 10-question pretest, join in a "mock" game with other contestants or meet Alex Trebek during an autograph session. The contestant search begins at 3:45 p.m. for the qualifying 80 pretest participants to take the 50-question qualifying test. The winner may be eligible to compete on a future "Jeopardy!" show.

For more information, please contact customer service at the Rocker NCO Club Complex at 634-074, or check it out online at <http://www.18services.com>.

Marine Corps University classes

Marine Corps University is accepting enrollments for the 2001-2002 academic year which begins October 2001.

Amphibious Warfare School Phase I, AWS II and Command & Staff will be taught in seminar with adjunct faculty. The diploma is the same as the resident diploma and these courses are equivalent to the resident diploma for promotion and assignment. The Command & Staff College is a Joint Professional Military Education phase I accredited school.

Seminars meet once a week for two hours. Sign up now so materials will be received prior to the Oct. 1 start date.

For more information, contact Col. James P. Hopkins, USMC retired, or Betty Eisenmann at 645-2230/2500, e-mail hopkinsjp@mcbbutler.usmc.mil or go to the MCU website at <http://mcu.mcbbutler.usmc.mil>.

Toy drive

The Community Action Council is sponsoring a used toy drive to help out the Okinawa City Women and Children's Shelter.

The shelter is a temporary shelter for families who have lost their husbands/fathers suddenly or lost their homes because of fire or other circumstances. Usually there are around 100 women and children staying in the shelter at any given time. The families normally have zero resources at their disposal and the shelter helps them get back on their feet.

The collection points for the toys are the Traffic Management Offices, Building 5636, at Camp Foster, the Traffic Management Offices, Building 756 at Kadena Air Base or Building 753, behind the fire station, at Kadena.

For further information on the toy drive, contact Raymond W. Richards at 634-3587 or 81-6117-34-3587.

Blood drive

The Camp Kinser American Red Cross is sponsoring a blood drive on behalf of U.S. Naval Hospital at Camp Lester Aug. 20 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Building 107, Room 146 and Aug. 23 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Kinser Chapel Social Hall.

To submit a brief ...

Send an e-mail to editor@mcbbutler.usmc.mil or fax your request to 645-3803. The Okinawa Marine accepts briefs for non-profit organizations and groups only and they are run on a space-available and time-priority basis. Deadline for submitting briefs is noon every Friday and the Okinawa Marine reserves the right to edit all submitted material to fit space.

Giving thanks to those who unselfishly help out the military



SGT. NATHANIEL T. GARCIA
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

As we move around consumed by our daily routines, we rarely recognize the working hands of men and women trying to make our lives just a touch more comfortable.

Yes, I am talking about the repair technicians, auto mechanics, mama sans, exchange employees and many others behind the scenes of our daily lives. We see them everywhere we go. Yet, how many times do we thank them or really understand how valuable their service is.

I recently had my eyes reopened to the vital role that many of these personnel provide to our military community while I was on a deployment to Guam as part of exercise Koa Thunder.

As a journalist my job requires me to work independently while on assignment and produce stories for publication by a certain deadline. Working out of my office, these requirements are relatively simple tasks to perform.

However, problems can arise out in the training grounds where access to a Internet connection, phone, fax or other benefits of modern technology aren't readily available.

As was the case, I was having trouble sending

pictures back to my supervisors and time was running out on the deadline. Let's face it – time was up. I had used every resource I could think of at the time. My last shot came when I luckily caught a ride to the exchange on Anderson Air Force Base, Guam.

I had nowhere else to turn. I was praying for an answer. I needed to send pictures back to Okinawa to support a story of mine running in the paper that week.

Almost as soon as I arrived at the local exchange, I realized that I had come to the right spot. I was welcomed in without a second glance and directed to the customer service desk. There I would meet the most helpful and determined group of people that I could have ever dreamed of.

I half expected them to look at me sideways when I told them my story, however, they smiled and seemed more than eager to try and solve my problem.

Although their efforts seemed to be in vain, the customer service representatives refused to give up and before I knew it I was introduced to several of the stores employees. Each new face I met tried to find a solution.

As time progressed, I began to despair. Nothing was going to work. Feeling as though we exhausted all avenues, I started to thank the group for their help. Surprisingly, the employees wouldn't give up so easily. One employee even called her husband at home to see if he could help.

It was then that I saw the determination in their eyes and realized that if I was going to meet that deadline, these people would be the ones to help me do it.

They managed to help customers the entire time they were helping me out. I thought about the stores I shopped at in the States. I asked myself "Would I have received this type of treatment at the local mall or super store?" I don't think so. In fact, I know I wouldn't.

It was then that I was reminded of how fortunate I was to be a part of this club called the military community that allowed me to meet these generous individuals.

And yes, through the hard work and determination they finally found someone who could get my photos back to Okinawa. An Air Force sergeant who was working part time as a computer salesman took me to his office to use his computers. The sergeant's computers happened to have all the right software.

And even though I didn't use the computers at the exchange to get the job done, I owe my mission's success to the helpful and resourceful staff at the Andersen Air Force Base Exchange. Thanks Dee Ponce, Michael Rodriguez, Tony Cruz, all the other exchange employees and all the other members of our military community who work so hard to make us feel at home. Your work doesn't go unnoticed.

Their selfless actions inspired me to write this commentary. I hope that everyone can take a look around and recognize those that contribute to their daily routine. Not only with plaques and a day-off, which I am sure are nice, but sometimes a simple smile, thank you or a little patience, when you see they are working hard to help you, goes a long way.

"It was then that I was reminded of how fortunate I was to be a part of this club called the military community that allowed me to meet these generous individuals."

- Sgt. Nathaniel T. Garcia

What Would You Do?

The following examination of leadership issues is not intended to present right or wrong answers. The goal is to provide a forum to encourage leadership discussions of challenging issues. Chaplain responses are designed to provide moral and ethical guidance. Questions, comments or ideas for a future scenario may be submitted to: editor@mcbbutler.usmc.mil

A question of integrity

You're pulling targets on qualification day at the rifle range and you see that the Marine who is shooting on your target needs to score a point on his or her last shot in order to qualify. When the last round comes down range, it strikes the target less than an inch outside the black. It's close enough that you could mark it a hit without anyone noticing and let the Marine qualify.

What would you do, mark it and qualify the Marine, or disk a miss?

What the Marines said

Corporal with 1st Marine Aircraft Wing: I would give the Marine the point that he or she needed. Everyone needs help at some point and time.

Sergeant with 3rd Force Service Support Group: No, because if he is at the 500-yard line with only 24 points, he didn't apply himself during grass week.

Sergeant with 3rd Marine Division: I would have to mark it as it landed.

Corporal with III Marine Expeditionary Force: I would give him or her the point he or she needs to qualify.

What the Chaplain said

Chaplain: Technically, you have been appointed the official scorer for qualification day by the Marine Corps. Your job is simply to report the facts without compromise.

Why do we compromise on such principles? Lack of integrity; judgment; or maybe even, lack of courage.

Let us ponder for a second.

Often, we are placed in circumstances where our character is on the line based upon the decision we will make in a matter of seconds. We need to always be preparing for such moments before the circumstance arises. If not, we may not be prepared to respond appropriately and the results could be disastrous.

Often the pressure may come from our seniors, subordinates or even our peers. We need to be prepared to answer the question, or respond to the challenge based upon the courage to do the right thing.

It was once said, "The test of courage comes when you are in the minority; the test of tolerance comes when you are in the majority."

Don't be tolerant, or judgmental. Simply, have the courage to mark it as it landed like the United States Marine Corps expects you to do, not to mention whoever else may be watching from above.

Disk the miss! Semper Fidelis.

-Navy Lt. Ray Summerlin, Chaplain, 7th Communication Battalion



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Marines control security around mechanical TRAP

Story and photos by Sgt. Nathaniel T. Garcia

APRA HARBOR NAVAL RESERVATION, Guam – As the world's 911 force in readiness, Marines must always be prepared to lend a hand in any situation with little or no prior warning.

Sometimes answering the call can be as simple as helping out in the local community. But, even the simplest missions like security can instantly become dangerous or hostile within moments, trapping any unprepared Marines.

The TRAP or Tactical Recovery of Aircraft and Personnel that the Marines from I Company, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, fell into July 9 during their 10-day deployment here in support of exercise Koa Thunder was a mechanical TRAP.

The purpose of a TRAP is to recover, repair or dismantle aircraft, and recover personnel. When an aircraft can be repaired by mechanics, it is flown out of the area. However, when an aircraft can't be repaired, it can be dismantled for a later pick up or destroyed.

In either case, Marines provide security around the aircraft in case aggressors or violent protestors arrive on the scene. In this exercise, 1st Platoon, I Co., 3/7, answered the call to what was to be a mechanical TRAP. They would provide security while mechanics repaired a blown engine.

To get to the downed aircraft, the Marines boarded CH-53Es out of Anderson AFB. The CH-53Es attached to Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron-463, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, headed to the abandoned airstrip here. Upon arrival, each Marine knew exactly where to go because they had prepared for this exercise many times.

Although this was the first time that 1st Platoon had conducted an actual TRAP exercise, according to 1st Lt. Kevin A. Shea, platoon commander, I Co., 3/7, they have participated in exercises involving security work and crowd control before. He hoped this exercise would broaden his Marines' capabilities.

Marines proved their capabilities by taking their positions around the broken C-130 from Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron-152, 1st MAF, forming a circle of protection. The circle fell into place smoothly until protestors arrived.

As the Marines from 1st Platoon came forward to intercept the approaching protestors, they were met with some resistance. Several of the protestors, played by other Marines from Marine Wing Support Squadron-172, 1st MAF, also in Guam as part of exercise Koa Thunder, made daring attempts to push through the wall of armed Marines from 3/7 to get to the C-130.

Some protestors got close, but all that tried were restrained using minimal force and were eventually deterred from trying again. The Marines restrained protestors, who remained violent and uncooperative, using tape to bind protestors, however, the Marines never lost their professionalism.

"Our objective was to keep the C-130 from taking off," said Sgt. John R. Dickerson, protestor and wireman, MWSS-172, 1st MAF. "They (3/7 Marines) used the minimal amount of force that they needed. They didn't over do it. They didn't try to pound me into the ground. They subdued me and they did their job."

Subduing violent protestors isn't always easy, but the Marines managed to complete the exercise using the minimal amount of force necessary according to SSgt. Paul A. Robinson, platoon sergeant, I Co., 3/7. Overall this mission was very successful. The speed in which the situation was contained surprised him.

In order to successfully complete the mission and remain in control of the situation, 1st Platoon relies heavily on its small unit leaders, non-commissioned officers, according to Shea.

"The small unit leaders play the largest part in this situation," Robinson said. "My small unit leaders are outstanding. Not only do they ensure their men are in the exact point and place but they ensure that they are able to react to any uprising at any given time."

We will be able to conduct a TRAP with less notice and less time to prepare, now that they have successfully completed one, according to Shea.

When the TRAP had come to a close, each Marine, protestor and security, boarded the working C-130 as fellow Marines, and with the knowledge gained from a successful mission, they headed back to their temporary homes on Guam.

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Cpl. Edwardo Beruman, rifleman and Lance Cpl. Glynn W. Vice wrestle a protester, Lance Cpl. Seth A. Martin, Heavy Equipment Operator, MWSS-172, 1st MAF, to the ground.



Lance Cpl. Edwardo Beruman (left), rifleman, Cpl. Ryan P. Miller (middle), team leader and Lance Cpl. Glynn W. Vice, rifleman, assigned to I Co., 3/7, restrain one of the angry protestors, played by Lance Cpl. Seth A. Martin, Heavy Equipment Operator, MWSS-172, 1st MAF, with tape using minimal force.



Marines used tape to tie up protestors who were violent or ran for the C-130.



Pfc. Christopher F. Smith (right) and Lance Cpl. Glynn W. Vice (left), both riflemen, assigned to 1st platoon, I Co., 3/7, deter with a show of force a group of protestors, who tried to get too close to the C-130 from VMGR-152. Marines from 3/7 were called upon to provide security around an aircraft as it received repairs.



Lance Cpl. Matthew E. Waters, automatic rifleman, 1st platoon, I Co., 3/7, enters the repaired C-130 after the TRAP exercise was complete.

Lance Cpl. Bennett, I Co., 3/7, provides security support to a C-130 receiving mechanical repairs.

Marine Corps weather forecasters predict future

CPL. CHAD SWAIM
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION FUTENMA — Most people may not think of Marines as fortunetellers or psychics, but like the weather forecaster on television, the men and women who work in the Weather Service predict a small part of the future every day.

When going on military exercises or operations, many hazards must be considered. Being unprepared for bad weather can make these hazards more dangerous. Weather Service personnel provide weather forecasts to unit commanders every day in an effort to make training safer.

"We provide any weather or oceanographic data to units that may need it for training or tactical operations," said Staff Sgt. Bret Alexander, weather forecaster, MCAS Futenma.

Weather Marines work 24 hours a day, seven days a week to provide aviation weather forecasts to pilots and flight crews. They provide information on the routes to avoid during dangerous weather conditions. Just as civilian pilots depend on information they receive from civilian weather forecasters, military pilots traveling through this area depend on the Weather Service Marines.

"These guys provide one of the most important services you can have in aviation," said Capt. Earl Halquist, assistant operations officer, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron here. "There's a lot of weather-related phenomena that can severely impact a mission."

Predicting the weather is not an exact science and military forecasters

sometimes have just as much trouble as their civilian counterparts.

"Weather Service personnel can do their job 100-percent right and still be wrong," Alexander said. "Weather is based on theory; there are no actual facts, physics or dynamics. It is all based on theories that people have come up with."

Weather Service Marines must first complete the Basic Weather Observer's Course at The Joint Weather Training Facility, Keesler Air Force Base, Miss. After approximately two to three years working in Weather Service, they can attend the Meteorological Oceanographic Analyst Forecasting course. In order to attend the course, the Marine must complete prerequisite courses and be recommended by their supervisors.

The Weather Observing School, which trains students from the Air Force, Navy, Marines and Coast Guard, includes three months of intense study in the fundamentals of meteorology, such as weather element observing and recording. After completing the school, students go on to the Forecasting School, which is approximately six months long and has more in-depth study. It concentrates on topics such as satellite meteorology, weather chart analysis, weather equipment operations, computer operations, weather radar, weather feature prognosis, weather products, weather forecasting and weather station operations.

Civilian college study in the weather field is similar to that of the military's. While colleges deal with theoretical and practical application, the military concentrates more on hands-on learning, according to Master Sgt. Timothy J. Morello, staff noncommis-



CPL. MATTHEW E. HABIB

Lance Cpl. Sandra L. DeBaene, weather observer, H&HS Squadron, MCAS Futenma, prepares to launch a weather balloon. The balloons are commonly used by the weather service Marines to help determine how far the clouds hover above the earth.

sioned officer in charge, MCAS Futenma, Weather Section.

"College students must take core courses, such as English, Math, etc.," Morello said. "Military students learn practical application for eight hours a day in school."

A graduate of the military's school does not hold a degree as a meteorologist, but can work in a weather-

related field in the civilian community.

With the forecasting experience they received in the Marine Corps, some Marines go on to work for the National Weather Service when they leave the military, according to GySgt Daniel Moreau, forecasting school supervisor, weather training flight, Keesler Air Force Base.

Marksmanship coaches teach method, fundamentals at pistol range

SGT. STEPHEN L. STANDIFIRD
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

CAMP HANSEN — Teaching the fundamentals and providing personal knowledge and technique on the range are only part of the job of a pistol coach with the Marksmanship Training Units in Okinawa. Some take extra time on the range to assist shooters who are having problems to better assist their pursuit of the ultimate goal of qualifying as an expert.

"I like to hear his input on things. I think he can give shooters good insight and lets me know what I need to work on to improve my shooting," said Sgt. Christopher S. Hearl, flight mechanic, Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron-152, Marine Air Group-36. "It's possible for everyone to shoot expert if they listen to their coaches and apply the fundamentals they teach."

Coaches are selected from their units to fill seats in the coaches' school. This three-week course teaches those Marines how to instruct other shooters with the fundamentals and techniques provided from the Marine Corps marksmanship manual.

Some of the coaches are just out of boot camp; some have been shooting for years. The majority of the coaches who are first term have rifle experience, but little or no pistol, but all are qualified and instructed on how to coach said Staff Sgt. Robert Portillo, staff noncommissioned officer in charge, MTU, III MEF.

"To be a coach they need to have qualified with a minimum of sharpshooter with rifle and successful completion of coach's school," Portillo added. "The coaches are qualified to teach because of the knowledge they learn day to day, applying what they learn at school, picking up tricks of the trade, and learning from those who compete within the marksmanship community."

The responsibilities of a coach go beyond just telling the shooters what to do, said Staff Sgt. Maxwell Lorge, range coach instructor. They need to know range activities, alibi procedures, position analysis, analyzing the fundamentals and they need to figure out what a Marine is doing wrong and how to help them.

"We also watch for position, holds, target verification, the way he presents himself to the target; there is a whole list and it could be any random number of things," said Pfc. Grant Wylie, marksmanship coach, III MEF Marksmanship Training Unit. "We learn what the perfect position is supposed to be and from there we analyze the shooters."

According to Portillo, it's a difficult process to analyze what the shooter is doing wrong.

"Every shooter is different," he said. "They need to learn how to see what are the shooters problems then read and analyze. It's a quick cycle. There are so many different things a shooter can do wrong in the split second before the round goes down range."



SGT. STEPHEN L. STANDIFIRD

Pfc. Benjamin Logue (right), marksmanship coach, III Marine Expeditionary Force Marksmanship Training Unit, and one of his shooters, Gunnery Sgt. Michael Cota, ground sensor chief, 3rd Intelligence Battalion, look down range at Cota's target to analyze what Cota needs help on.

Watching a shooter you coached on the range improve his score is the best feeling a coach can have, Wylie said.

"There is nothing better than to take a non-shooter and help them shoot expert," he said. "When you have a shooter come in that hasn't shot any higher than marksman, and you help them out and they listen and learn, it makes you feel like you helped out a whole lot. That is the greatest feeling for a coach."

Saying sayonara

III MEF chief of staff retires from the Marine Corps after a distinguished 30-year career

SGT. STEPHEN L. STANDIFIRD
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

CAMP COURTNEY — Sitting in his spacious office, Col. James Booker glanced every so often at his laptop computer resting on his temporary desk located along the back wall. The wallpaper on his computer is decorated with a photo of his only granddaughter. It is obvious to any who catch him glancing that she represents home to the soon retired Marine.

Booker, the III Marine Expeditionary Force chief of staff, has served honorably in the United States Marine Corps for more than 30 years as a field artilleryman and has held many challenging jobs throughout the world. But at first glance, the seemingly plain office, doesn't say anything about his past.

"My family and I have had households on three continents, and I've sailed just about every ocean there is on earth, in the Navy's ships of war," the Oklahoma native said, with a sense of accomplishment and pride. "I don't think there is any other job out there that would have been able to do that for me."

Booker was looking for work shortly after earning a bachelor's degree in medical technology. Little did he know, he was destined to join the military.

"First of all I got drafted, so at the time I got drafted I was looking for other options," he said. "There was no other service who would offer me the opportunity to be an officer. The Marine Corps offered that opportunity to me and I jumped on it."

He dove headfirst into officer candidate school and graduated Feb. 14, 1971, and then returned to Fort Sill, Okla., to train at the artillery school.

"I chose artillery because I was able to use my math background to facilitate my profession," Booker said. "I've always enjoyed math, so artillery is built around math concepts, and I feel comfortable with that, and I found artillery school to be challenging enough to keep my interests."

"And they told us that artillerymen always had jeeps to move around in," he added with a bright smile and quick laugh.

Booker served his first tour in the Marine Corps at Camp Pendleton, Calif., with H Battery, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division for one year.

Following his tour in California, he was reassigned to serve with H Battery, 3rd Bn., 12th Marines in Okinawa.

After Okinawa, Booker left the artillery field and started a long journey on the other side of the Marine Corps. He served three years as a recruiter in Richmond, Va., then as an officer assignment monitor at Headquarters Marine Corps.

"I think probably if there was anything in my career that I personally would have changed, I would have been around artillerymen and down on the guns firing, watching them fire a lot more than I was able to do in my career," Booker said. "But I understand that you have to serve on the staff every now and then"

Booker continued his service in staff jobs as an executive officer at Camp Lejeune, N.C., a commanding officer at Parris Island, S.C., and chief of staff at III MEF.

In between Booker served with the 4th Amphibious Brigade in Norfolk, Va., the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers in Europe and fleet Marine officer with the USS Mount Whitney.

"I love a challenge," Booker said. "Every assignment, every new duty station, every new job was a challenge. I love being a Marine. I love the competition of being one of the few, the finest, and the Marines are the best that the nation has to offer."



SGT. STEPHEN L. STANDIFIRD

Colonel James I. Booker, III Marine Expeditionary Force chief of staff, stands proudly under the Marine Corps flag that he has honored for more than 30 years. According to Booker, "every assignment, every new duty station, every new job was a challenge. I love the competition of being one of the few, the finest, and the Marines are the best that the nation has to offer." Further challenges await Booker as he is about to take on a new title of civilian.

Going 30 years in the Marine Corps might seem like a long time for some Marines, but for Booker, going all the way was the only way.

"At the 10-year mark I had to make the decision to stay in or get out," he said. "I made the decision at that time I was going to put my full focus on being a good Marine Officer. I decided to remain on active duty because I love being a Marine."

Reflecting back on his career, Booker expressed what being a Marine meant to him as well as what the Corps stands for.

"I think Marines will always be Marines," he said. "We'll endure hardship and personal gain to ensure that our mission is accomplished and that our mission is taken care of."

Booker said every good thing must come to an end, but a slight hint of regret escaped his lips as he thought ahead to his retirement and what his future plans are.

"I'm going back to Virginia to spend some time with my first grandchild and make sure she has an opportunity to become an effective member of society, and I'm going to try and work in a field where I can still teach Marines and work in the joint environment," he expressed as his eyes glanced once more at the wallpaper on his computer.

Booker had a passionate and sincere message for Marines who are thinking about staying in the Marine Corps. He said Marines need to treat others like you want to be treated, to always learn your job and do it to the best of your ability and "if Jim Booker can do it, anybody can do it. You just have to stay focused."

Booker looks forward to moving on in his life and knows he will get a chance to work with the Marines in the future.

"The Marine Corps will exist forever because Marines are something special," Booker said.



Okinawan Eisa drummers perform before a large crowd at the carnival. The two-day event included rides for children, games, concerts and a variety of food for spectators.



Two Okinawan boys show off their newly won green-dyed chick at the 15th annual Seaport Chatan Carnival July 15.



Xavier Longoria, a 3-year-old service family member, rides a mini train at the carnival.

Seaport carnival brings communities together

STAFF SGT. JASON M. WEBB
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

CHATAN, Okinawa—Sunnyskies and white sand provided the backdrop for thousands of spectators who flocked to the 15th annual Seaport Chatan Carnival July 14-15 to see numerous free concerts and savor local and American food from the many vendors selling their gourmet specialties.

The festival, open to everyone and serving as a building block for community relations, brought Americans and Okinawans together for the two day event to share cultures.

Throughout the weekend, carnival goers busied themselves by attending performances from traditional Okinawan Eisa drum dances, local bands, skill games and painting the Chatan Seawall. Each night of the carnival ended with a fireworks display.

"This is a fun event," said Michael White, a retired Marine who attended the carnival seven times and runs a food-vending tent that serves his own brand of shish kabobs. "The beach

is the best place to be during this time of year."

For the Americans in attendance, the carnival opened the door to seeing how the Okinawans celebrate their festivals and gave service members a chance to mingle and exchange cultural influences.

"The carnival is close to what I would see back home in Illinois," said Jenn Crawley, a student and service family member. "There aren't many differences. They still have children's rides, games where people can win prizes and music. It's very close to a state fair other than the food and cultural differences."

Even though the weekend provided cultural differences from what Americans normally perceived as a carnival, most learned more from the cultural exchanges than they expected.

"If I'm here next year I will definitely come back and bring more of my friends. I think this was a worthwhile event that every American should see," Crawley said.



PHOTOS BY STAFF SGT. JASON M. WEBB

Rows of game tents lined the streets of the 15th annual Seaport Chatan Carnival July 14-15. Spectators could win prizes ranging from stuffed animals to live chicks and fish.

MCB Hawaii victorious in regional softball tournament

STORY AND PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. KENNETH L. HINSON
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

CAMP FOSTER – The stage was set for a normal day at the ballpark with hot dogs and beer. But Friday afternoon turned into anything but normal as Marine Corps Base Hawaii edged past 3rd Force Service Support Group in a 10-9 victory to claim the annual 2001 Command Marine Forces Pacific Regional Softball Tournament title July 13.

The five-day tournament began July 9 and featured seven teams from Okinawa, Hawaii and Iwakuni, Japan. After the double-elimination semi-finals, MCB Hawaii and 3rd FSSG paired up against each other to decide who would go home the champs.

3rd FSSG struggled early as Hawaii quickly jumped out to a 4-0 lead by pounding two homers in the first inning. 3rd FSSG only answered with one run in the bottom of the first.

During the second and third innings, a few doubles hit by Hawaii increased their lead to 6-1.

3rd FSSG showed signs of life in the sixth inning when Gunnery Sgt. Rob Harden, shortstop, knocked a two-run homer to bring the score to 6-3. Hawaii failed to put any runs on the board in the bottom of the sixth as they headed into the seventh and final inning.

The seventh inning brought excitement to both the crowd and the teams, as the game came down to the final pitch. 3rd FSSG came out swinging with back-to-back homers to lead off the inning, but they were not done. They continued to pound the ball with two doubles and an in-the-park homerun. All this action put them on top 9-6 with Hawaii having the last chance to bat.

Hawaii didn't give up. With runners in scoring position, Staff Sgt. Todd Tapper, first baseman, belted a three-run homer to tie the game with only one out. Hawaii again quickly put the pressure on 3rd FSSG by loading the bases. After an infield pop-up to cause the second out, Sgt. Jeremy Hinkhouse, outfielder, singled in the winning run.

"We knew we had to give our best effort in the last inning if we were going to come out on top," Tapper said. "3rd FSSG played hard and gave us a scare in the 6th inning when they took the lead."

The annual tournament not only crowned the Marine Corps Pacific Softball Championship Team, but also served as an opportunity to select six players to tryout for the All Marine Softball Trial Camp held July 22 through August 11 at Camp Pendleton, Calif. At the camp, the selected players are given the opportunity to distinguish their talent and tryout for the All-Marine Softball Team.

"The opportunity to be picked for the All-Marine Softball Team is a chance in a lifetime," said Staff Sgt. Gerry Rouse, first baseman, Iwakuni Men's Varsity Softball Team. "We have some great athletes in the military, and it's a great chance for us to display it."

The COMMARFORPAC Regional Tournament is a Headquarters Marine Corps sponsored event and has for years helped service members develop and display the athletic side of the military in Okinawa.

"This tournament gives players a chance to take their athleticism to the next level of competition," said Sonny Jones, sports specialist, Semper Fit Athletics, Marine Corps Community Services. "We are here to allow them to prove their talent and at the same time compete against fellow service members."

Hawaii now heads back home with a trophy and honor of being called "Champs." They plan to come back and defend their title at next year's tournament.



Daniel Conway, catcher, 3rd MarDiv. team, slides into first base to avoid being called out while Rob Harden, first baseman, 3rd FSSG team, catches the ball.



MCB Hawaii teammates and outfielders, Pete Adams and Jeremy Hinkhouse watch how their team is performing at the plate.



A runner leads off first base as much as the rules allow during the COMMARFORPAC Regional Softball Tournament July 13.

Under the spotlight

Feeling the groove of karaoke

SGT. STEPHEN. L. STANDIFIRD
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

CAMP COURTNEY — I am not by any means a decent singer. In fact, I believe there are noise pollution laws that restrict me from using my pipes to sing. But that didn't stop me from signing up for one of seven enjoyable evenings at the Bust-a-Rhyme Karaoke Contest at Camp Courtney's Staff Noncommissioned Officer club.

The contest, which is open to all ranks and services, is going on every

Wednesday until August 29, when the winners from every week will compete for the ultimate prize of an outdoor grill. And according to the rules, those who don't win each week can reenter the following week until the last day of the contest.

I knew I wouldn't be the best singer in the group, but it was worth the embarrassment for the chance to win a new stereo system that night. I was nervous at the mere thought of singing. I was having trouble getting over my fear of singing in front of a live audience (even if they were dead I don't think it would have changed anything). But I think it was the karaoke jockey, Hank Standerford, who first put the real intent in my head when he told me that this competition is designed for all types of singers. If someone sings very well, the mystery song usually balances out the competition between the singers and the karaoke jocks. Then Kymm Thomas and Cindy Orr, both operations assistants with the club, started to really tease me about singing in the contest.

The first round was singer's choice. It should be a song that the singer sings well. I know I chose my song because I can sing it. The second song comes from a list of songs hidden behind masks on a song board near the karaoke jockey. The songs hidden there were of all types and styles of music from country to pop and even patriotic.

The more Cindy and Kymm convinced me I could sing and even win, I started to believe I could actually sing. For the prize that was offered, I was willing to keep in tune with Cameron Diaz's karaoke nightmare in the movie *My Best Friends Wedding*.

Although I wasn't totally committed, my nerves were on the edge. I thought the butterflies were out in full force in my stomach. I wasn't convinced to sign up until I heard a competitor warming up. He sounded worse than me. I know I sound arrogant, but at least my pipes have a muffler. He was raw pollution. I walked right up to Hank and signed up for the contest.

After the first competitor, I started to have second thoughts. What would I look like standing out there — singing? The blood rushed out of my head. My reflection went ghost white. When I heard my name my knees went weak and I was lost in space. Everything passed slowly as I moved to center stage. Staring down the line of judges and at the screen for the lyrics, the music began to play.

"I hear the train a comin'; it's rollin' 'round the bend." As the dry mouth subsided I was surprised to hear my voice singing my song. "And I ain't seen the sunshine since I don't know when." Before I knew what happened I was walking around the floor like Johnny Cash himself in concert singing Folsom Prison Blues. I finished the song with ease and earned a score high enough to put me in the lead. The mystery song was a different story. But I fumbled through and maintained a decent score.

I held onto the lead for a while. That was until Betsy Arzuaga stepped out onto the floor and swept all thoughts of where I was going to put that stereo system in my room away. She had the crowd in total awe and silence as she performed "Dancing Queen" by Abba. She performed like she was in concert. It was no surprise that she scored perfect in the first round. The song she chose for the second round was a song she didn't really know but she still scored well and it put her in first. Standerford's words of separating the singers and karaoke jocks were ever so true with Betsy's songs.

"I just wanted to take a risk," Arzuaga said. "I've been singing since I was really little and I thought, why not come out and see how other people sing."

She held her first place spot and started to envision the new stereo in her room until the last performer came on. Jeff Arsenault was no rookie to the karaoke scene like I was.

He performed. He pranced around singing to everyone cleaning up like a veteran performer. I couldn't believe the nerve of this guy. It wasn't fair for him to have that much talent and steal the competition. I could close my eyes and imagine I was listening to Creed live in the Forum — show off. He is what I believe Standerford would call a karaoke jock. He walked away with a perfect score on the first round just like Betsy did. But his second song made the difference and the judges declared him the proud owner of the new stereo system.

All the contestants got a prize, but everyone at the club won as they had the opportunity to enjoy at least one night out of the week.

"We try to make everyone happy every night," Standerford said. "We get them to relax and help them forget their day-to-day activities. It's all about having a good time."

CPL. SCOTT CARLSON
Jay Mejorado sings "Don't Take the Girl" by Tim McGraw during Bust-a-Rhyme Karaoke Contest at Camp Courtney's Staff Noncommissioned Officer club.



AUTOMOBILES/MOTORCYCLES

1990 Nissan Prairie — JCI May 03, \$2,500 OBO. 646-2503.
1991 Toyota Window — JCI July 02, \$3,500 OBO. 637-4563.
1989 Honda Integra — JCI March 02, \$1,000. 0909-656-8044.
1999 Harley Davidson 883 Hugger — \$7,000. 622-8166.
1991 Honda CBR600F2 — JCI May 02, \$3,900 OBO. 935-5589.
1991 Nissan Gloria — JCI March 03, \$5,200 OBO. 637-4097.
Nissan Skyline — JCI Aug. 02, \$1,400 OBO. 645-0862/646-8266.
1990 Mazda Bongo — JCI April 03, \$2,200 OBO. 646-4385.
1985 Toyota Town Ace — JCI Dec. 02, \$1,500. 090-7585-6415.
1989 Toyota Levin — JCI July 03, \$1,200 OBO. 645-7605.
1992 Mitsubishi Minica — JCI June 03, \$1,900 OBO. 090-7445-3879.
1989 Mitsubishi Pajero — JCI March 02, \$4,200 OBO. 646-4618.
1994 Toyota Corolla — JCI Dec. 01, \$1,500 OBO. 622-7334/7309.
1991 Suzuki Escudo — JCI April 02, \$1,200 OBO. 637-5131.
1991 Nissan Prairie — JCI Oct. 02, \$2,000 OBO. 934-3534.
1989 Toyota Light Ace — JCI Jan. 02, \$600 OBO. 637-3836.
1990 Mitsubishi Galant — JCI July 03, \$2,500 OBO. **1988 Toyota Town Ace** — JCI Oct. 01, \$1,000 OBO. 633-5789.
1990 Nissan Largo — JCI Oct. 02, \$1,500 OBO. 623-7312.
1992 Toyota Mark II — JCI May 03, \$2,800. 646-4894.
1990 Suzuki GSXR 1100 — \$5,500. 633-0753.
1991 Nissan Gloria — JCI April 03, \$1,600 OBO. 090-1941-8558.
1987 Toyota Master Surf — JCI Jan. 02, \$1,000 OBO. 622-8450/623-4728.
1987 Mitsubishi Charlot — JCI Nov. 01, \$650 OBO. 645-9411/090-1946-4385.
1988 Toyota Vista — JCI July 01, Free. 090-1874-3144.

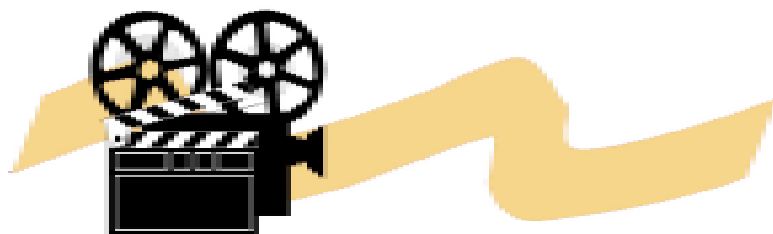


MISCELLANEOUS

Misc. — Spartan pop-up trailer, assembled, locks, perfect for scuba or camping gear, \$500 OBO; Compaq computer system, CPU, 15" monitor, all-in-one fax/scanner/copier/printer, \$500 OBO; 27" Panasonic television, \$150; Pioneer Home Theater System, \$150. 646-4618.
Misc. — Dehumidifier, \$80; 2,000w transformer, \$100. 625-2105/090-1086-2615.
Platinum engagement ring set — 3/4-carat engagement ring and wedding band with seven marquise diamonds set in band, never been worn, \$2,000 OBO. 623-4940 or 623-4874.
Misc. — X-large dog kennel, \$60; Murray lawn mower, \$50 OBO; 4-piece Samsonite luggage set, \$50 OBO. 633-5789.
Computer — 7100 Power Mac desktop with 15" monitor, Visioneer scanner, color printer, MAC software and books, \$200. 090-3795-8622.
Turntables — Two Technics 1200 and Beringer Mixer with 12 Sec. sampler, \$1,200. 623-5391.
Bed — Queen mattress, box and headboard, \$200. 646-6948.
Misc. — Sony 5-disk, dual cassette stereo and 4 speakers with surround sound stereo, \$300; lawn mower \$100. 646-2755.
Dishwasher — Full-size, portable, \$100. 646-6951.
Free Dog — 1 1/2-year-old Black Lab mix, medium size, housebroken, spayed and has had all shots. 932-8325.

Ads appearing in the Okinawa Marine do so as a free service to active duty military, their dependents and DoD employees. Ads are restricted to personal property or service of incidental exchange. Ads run on a space-available basis and must be resubmitted each week. The deadline for ads is noon, Fridays, space permitting. The Okinawa Marine reserves the right to edit ads to fit available space. Please include your name and the phone number you wish published. The Okinawa Marine makes every effort to ensure accuracy, but assumes no responsibility for services offered in ads. Submit ads by faxing to 645-3803, Mon.-Fri., or send an e-mail to editor@mcbbutler.usmc.mil

Coming to a theater near you ...



Feature programs and start times are subject to change without notice. **Call theaters in advance to confirm showtimes.** Second evening movies will vary when the program runs longer than 120 minutes.

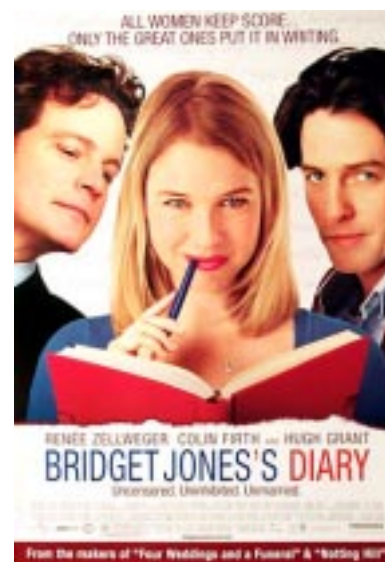
Schwab (625-2333)
Fri The Forsaken (R); 7:00
Sat Driven (PG13); 6:00
Sat The Mummy Returns (PG13); 9:00
Sat Swordfish (R); 12:00
Sun Driven (PG13); 3:00
Sun The Mummy Returns (PG13); 6:00
Mon The Score (R); 7:00
Tue The Score (R); 7:00
Wed Closed
Thu Blow (R); 7:00
Hansen (623-4564)
Fri A.I.: Artificial Intelligence (PG13); 6:00, 9:00
Sat A.I.: Artificial Intelligence (PG13); 6:00, 9:00
Sun Bridget Jones's Diary (R); 2:00, 5:30
Mon Freddy Got Fingered (R); 7:00
Tue Joe Dirt (PG13); 7:00
Wed A Knight's Tale (PG13); 7:00
Thu A Knight's Tale (PG13); 7:00
Courtney (622-9616)
Fri The Score (R); 7:00
Sat Driven (PG13); 7:00
Sun The Forsaken (R); 7:00
Mon Closed
Tue Closed
Wed Toy Story 2 (G); 1:00
Wed The Mummy Returns (PG13); 7:00
Thu Closed
Keystone (634-1869)
Fri The Mummy Returns (PG13); 6:30
Fri The Fast and the Furious (PG13); 9:30
Sat Spy Kids (PG); 1:00
Sat The Fast and the Furious (PG13); 5:30
Sat The Score (R); 8:30

Sun Spy Kids (PG); 2:00
Sun The Score (R); 5:30, 8:30
Mon Bridget Jones's Diary (R); 7:00
Tue Inspector Gadget (G); 1:00
Tue Bridget Jones's Diary (R); 7:00
Wed A Knight's Tale (R); 7:00
Thu Blow (R); 7:00
Butler (645-3465)
Fri Cats & Dogs (PG); 7:00
Fri One Night at McCool's (R); 10:00
Sat Cats & Dogs (PG); 1:00, 4:00
Sat Along Came a Spider (R); 7:00, 10:00
Sun Cats & Dogs (PG); 1:00, 4:00
Sun Gidget Jones's Diary (R); 7:00
Mon Dinosaur (PG); 1:00
Mon Bridget Jones's Diary (R); 7:00
Tue A Knight's Tale (PG13); 7:00
Wed Chicken Run (G); 1:00
Wed A Knight's Tale (PG13); 7:00
Thu The Score (R); 7:00

Futenma (636-3890)
Fri Town and Country (R); 7:30
Sat Driven (PG13); 6:00
Sat What's the Worst That Could Happen? (PG13); 11:00
Sun The Forsaken (R); 6:00
Mon A.I.: Artificial Intelligence (PG13); 7:30
Tue Closed
Wed Cats & Dogs (PG); 7:30
Thu Closed
Kinser (637-2177)
Fri The Mummy Returns (PG13); 7:00
Sat Blow (R); 3:00
Sat A Knight's Tale (PG13); 7:00, 11:30
Sun Bridget Jones's Diary (R); 7:00
Mon Closed
Tue Rugrats in Paris (G); 1:00
Tue Blow (R); 7:00
Wed The Score (R); 7:00
Thu The Muppets from Space (G); 1:00
Thu Bridget Jones's Diary (R); 7:00



Check Hansen, Keystone, Butler and Kinser Theaters for show times.



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